



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,163	09/15/2003	Steven M. Bennett	42P15752	2836
45209	7590	12/07/2009	EXAMINER	
INTEL/BSTZ			TO, JENNIFER N	
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP				
1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040			2195	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/07/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/663,163	BENNETT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JENNIFER N. TO	2195	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2009.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2,5-9,11-17,19,22-26,30,31,33-35,37-39,41,43-46,50,51,53 and 56 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims pending in the application are 1,2,5-9,11-17,19,22-26,30,31,33-35,37-39,41,43-46,50,51,53 and 56.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-2, 5-9, 11-17, 19, 22-26, 30-31, 33-35, 37-39, 41, 43-46, 50-51, 53, and 56 are pending for examination.

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 09/11/2009 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-2, 5-9, 11-17, 19, 22-26, 30-31, 33-35, 37-39, 41, 43-46, 50-51, 53, and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robinson et al (hereafter Robinson) (U.S. Patent No. 5522075), and in view of Shorter (U.S. Patent No. 5063500).

5. Robinson and Shorter were cited in the previous office action.

6. As per claim 1, Robinson teaches the invention substantially as claim including a method comprising:

receiving one of a plurality of types of virtual machine entry instructions executed by a virtual machine monitor (VMM) (col. 10, lines 15-59; col. 11, lines 55-60; col. 12, lines 34-60);

identifying based on whether the instruction is a VM launch or a VM resume instruction, that a transition from the VMM to one or more virtual machines (VMs) is about to occur (col. 5, lines 21-27; col. 10, lines 15-59; col. 11, lines 55-60; col. 12, lines 34-60); and

utilizing processor-managed resources associated with the one or more VMs based the transition (col. 10, line 54 through col. 11, line 39).

7. Robinson did not specifically teach that the transition is an initial transition.

8. However, Shorter teaches that the transition from the VMM to one or more VMs is an initial transition (col. 14, lines 47-66).

9. It would have been obvious to one of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teaching of Robinson and Shorter's system because both systems suggest transition from a VMM to one or more VMs is occurred in response to a instruction and Shorter also suggested that the transition is an initial transition would improve the integrity of Robinson's system by avoiding the assignment

of a VM from the pool to a conversation request involving a program thread that is dependent on the successful execution of a previous thread (col. 5, lines 10-14).

10. As per claim 2, Shorter teaches that wherein the initial transition from the VMM to the one or more VMs is a first time invocation of a VM (abstract; col. 5, lines 36-56).

11. As per claim 5, Shorter teaches that wherein the instruction executed by the VMM is VM launch instruction (col. 10, lines 39-55; col. 11, lines 9-15).

12. As per claim 6, Shorter teaches that wherein identifying the initial transition comprises determining initial transition is about to occur by logic within a processor (abstract; col. 5, lines 36-55).

13. As per claim 7, Shorter teaches that wherein the logic within the processor is prediction logic (abstract; col. 5, lines 36-55).

14. As per claim 8, Shorter teaches that wherein utilization of processor-managed resources includes at least one of allocation of one or more processor-managed resources, de-allocation of one or more processor-managed resources, verification of data stored in one or more processor-managed resources, invalidation of data stored in one or more processor-managed resources, and loading of data into one or more processor-managed resources (abstract; col. 8, line 67 through col. 9, line 6).

15. As per claim 9, it is rejected for the same reason as claim 1 above. In addition, Shorter teaches notifying the processor of the initial transition (col. 14, lines 59-66).

16. As per claim 11, Shorter teaches that wherein the initial transition is an initial transfer to the VM (col. 14, lines 47-66).

17. As per claim 12, Shorter teaches allocating a memory region for a new virtual machine control structure (VMCS) associated with the VM, and requesting the processor to activate the new VMCS (col. 11, line 66 through col. 12, lines 22).

18. As per claim 13, Shorter teaches that wherein requesting the processor to activate the new VMCS comprises executing a VMCS pointer load instruction including a pointer to the new VMCS as an operand (col. 12, line 66 through col. 13, line 11).

19. As per claim 14, Shorter teaches that requesting the processor to initialize the new VMCS (col. 11, lines 9-18).

20. As per claim 15, Shorter teaches that wherein requesting the processor to initialize the new VMCS comprises executing a VMCS clear instruction including the pointer to the new VMCS as an operand (col. 8, line 59 through col. 9, line 26; col. 13, lines 12-20).

21. As per claim 16, Shorter teaches upon requesting the processor to activate the new VMCS, requesting the processor to set execution control information, VMM state information and VM state information in the new VMCS (col. 11, lines 9-18).

22. As per claim 17, Shorter teaches that wherein requesting the processor to set execution control information, VMM state information and VM state information in the new VMCS comprises executing a VMCS write instruction having an operand that identifies a component of the new VMCS to which data is to be written (figs 6A-6B, 7; col. 11, lines 9-18).

23. As per claims 19, 22-26, 30-31, 33-35, 37-39, 41, 43-46, 50-51, 53, and 56, they are rejected for the same reason as claims 1-2, 5-9, and 11-17 above.

Response to Arguments

24. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2, 5-9, 11-17, 19, 22-26, 30-31, 33-35, 37-39, 41, 43-46, 50-51, 53, and 56 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JENNIFER N. TO whose telephone number is (571)272-7212. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 6AM- 3:30 PM, F 6AM- 2:30 PM.

26. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

27. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Meng-Ai An/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2195

/Jennifer N. To/
Patent Examiner, AU 2195